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# NEWS RELEASE

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## ST. ANTHONY TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH \$2.7 MILLION WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT

St. Anthony, Idaho April 26, 2005 – State Director Mike Field joined Mayor Beck and other state and federal officials as the City of St. Anthony celebrated Earth Day 2005 with a check presentation from USDA Rural Development representing funding for their waste water system in the amount of \$2,700,000.

2005 is the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day and each year, USDA in partnership with local communities, as well as state, federal and local agencies have made significant strides in cleaning up our environment. Lakes, rivers and streams across the country have benefited from the investment Rural Development has provided for community water or wastewater systems. St. Anthony represents 1 of the cities in 29 states receiving a total of \$143.4 million in investments for 2005 that will help to ensure clean, sanitary, and safe water for their neighborhoods.

Mr. Field said "On this 35th anniversary of the first Earth Day, USDA Rural Development is proud to participate with the City of St. Anthony to help ensure a healthy and clean environment for future generations in rural Idaho."

Some of St. Anthony's existing sewer collection system was constructed of red clay tile about 1917. The existing wastewater collection and treatment system in St. Anthony was found to be deteriorating and inadequate to meet current State requirements for wastewater systems.

The City approved a \$5 million sewer revenue bond and applied for funding to Rural Development, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environmental Quality. USDA Rural Development is providing a \$2 million loan and a \$700,000 grant.

The new system will bring many improvements including:

Upgrading approximately 64% of the existing collection system and associated manholes and upgrading and replacing 3 lift stations.

The aeration system in the lagoons will be upgraded and liners added. The chlorine system will be upgraded to help the City meet permit limits, a new headwork building will be built, flow measurement equipment will be installed and the City's turbine in the North Fork Snake River will be refurbished.

The proposed project will provide improved service to approximately 1,484 users and serve the community for the next 30 years. The completion of the project will improve the environment and put the City in compliance with Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

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